

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

- 1.-17. (canceled)
18. (new) A chemically synthesized double stranded short interfering nucleic acid (siNA) molecule, wherein:
- a) the siNA comprises a first strand and a second strand;
 - b) the first strand comprises a sense region and the second strand comprises an antisense region;
 - c) each strand is 19 to 29 nucleotides in length;
 - d) the first strand, second strand, or both first and second strands of the siNA comprises more than one modified nucleoside having a Northern conformation; and
 - e) at least two of said modifications are different from each other.
19. (new) The siNA molecule of claim 18, wherein said siNA molecule comprises no ribonucleotides.
20. (new) The siNA molecule of claim 18, wherein said siNA molecule comprises one or more ribonucleotides.
21. (new) The siNA molecule of claim 18, wherein said Northern conformation nucleotides are selected from the group consisting of locked nucleic acid (LNA) nucleotides; 2'-methoxyethoxy nucleotides; 2'-methyl-thio-ethyl nucleotides, 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro nucleotides, 2'-deoxy-2'-chloro nucleotides, 2'-azido nucleotides, 2'-O-trifluoromethyl nucleotides, 2'-O-ethyl-trifluoromethoxy nucleotides, 2'-O-difluoromethoxy-ethoxy nucleotides, 4'-thio nucleotides and 2'-O-methyl nucleotides.
22. (new) The siNA molecule of claim 18, wherein the first strand includes a terminal cap moiety at the 5'-end, the 3'-end, or both of the 5' and 3' ends.

23. (new) The siNA molecule of claim 18, wherein the second strand includes a terminal cap moiety at the 3'-end.
24. (new) The siNA molecule of claim 22, wherein said cap moiety comprises an abasic moiety.
25. (new) The siNA molecule of claim 23, wherein said cap moiety comprises an abasic moiety.
26. (new) The siNA molecule of claim 24, wherein said abasic moiety comprises an inverted deoxyabasic moiety.
27. (new) The siNA molecule of claim 25, wherein said abasic moiety comprises an inverted deoxyabasic moiety.
28. (new) The siNA molecule of claim 18, wherein pyrimidine nucleotides in the sense region are 2'-O-methyl pyrimidine nucleotides.
29. (new) The siNA molecule of claim 18, wherein purine nucleotides in the sense region are 2'-deoxy purine nucleotides.
30. (new) The siNA molecule of claim 18, wherein pyrimidine nucleotides present in the sense region are 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro pyrimidine nucleotides.
31. (new) The siNA molecule of claim 18, wherein pyrimidine nucleotides of said antisense region are 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro pyrimidine nucleotides
32. (new) The siNA molecule of claim 18, wherein purine nucleotides of said antisense region are 2'-O-methyl purine nucleotides.
33. (new) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the siNA molecule of claim 18 in an acceptable carrier or diluent.